

SENATE BILL 2879

By Southerland

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 70, Chapter 4, Part 1, relative to the transporting of wild-appearing swine.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 70, Chapter 4, Part 1, is amended by adding the following as a new section:

70-4-133.

(a) It is the intent of this section to address the illegal translocation of wild-appearing swine. These animals have been shown to be destructive to native habitats, agricultural lands and private property and are carriers for a myriad of diseases that affect humans, livestock and wildlife.

(b) It is not the intent of this section to in any way impede the legal transportation of swine that are regulated by the department of agriculture.

(c) As used in this section, "wild-appearing swine" means swine that are typically two feet to three feet (2'-3') tall and three and one-half feet to five feet (3 ½' - 5') long and that typically have the following physical features, in comparison to domestic swine:

- (1) Massive heads with smaller, pointed and heavily-furred ears;
- (2) Heavier shoulders that slope down to small hips, giving the animal an outline similar to an American bison;
- (3) Long and thin snouts;
- (4) Upper tusks or whitters that curl up and out and rub against the lower tusks, making a knifelike edge against the lower tusks; and
- (5) Straight tails that are tufted at the tip.

(d) It is an offense for any person to transport or cause to be transported into or within the state, live wild-appearing swine that do not have documentation approved by the department of agriculture.

(e) A violation of subsection (d) is a Class A misdemeanor. Each undocumented wild-appearing swine illegally transported in violation of subsection (d) is a separate offense.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2012, the public welfare requiring it.